

PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Unemployment and Job Estimates for Feb. 2019

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

MEDIA CONTACT

Charles Pearce, Director of Communications - Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Phone

(617) 626-7121 (tel:6176267121)

Online

charles.pearce@mass.gov (mailto:charles.pearce@mass.gov)

BOSTON — [The state's February total unemployment rate is down one-tenth of a percentage point at 3.0 percent](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Current_Month_unemploymentnet.asp) (http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/Current_Month_unemploymentnet.asp), the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 6,600 jobs in February. (<http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/CES.asp>)

Over the month, the private sector added 5,600 jobs as gains occurred in Education and Health Services; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; Financial Activities; and Construction. Manufacturing lost jobs over the month while the jobs level in Information remained unchanged.

From February 2018 to February 2019, BLS estimates Massachusetts added 20,300 jobs.

The February unemployment rate was eight-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 3.8 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The Commonwealth continues to experience job and labor force growth alongside an unemployment rate that has remained below 4% for 34 consecutive months. Our workforce development departments remain committed to ensuring that all regions and communities in Massachusetts can better access our high demand job categories during this period of strong economic growth," Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said.

The labor force increased by 3,100 from 3,840,500 in January, as 6,200 more residents were employed and 3,100 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped six-tenths of a percentage point.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 68.0 percent. Compared to February 2018, the labor force participation rate is up 1.0 percentage point.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Education and Health Services.

February 2019 Employment Overview

Education and Health Services added 3,500 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 11,800 (+1.5%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific, and Business Services added 1,100 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific, and Business Services gained 10,400 (+1.8%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality added 1,000 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 2,400 (-0.6%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities gained 400 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 900 (-0.2%) jobs.

Other Services added 400 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 1,000 (+0.7%) jobs.

Financial Activities gained 200 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 800 (-0.4%) jobs.

Construction added 100 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 1,100 (-0.7%) jobs.

Information jobs level remained unchanged over the month. Over the year, Information lost 300 (-0.3%) jobs.

Manufacturing lost 1,100 (-0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 2,100 (-0.9%) jobs.

Government added 1,000 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 4,800 (+1.1%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The February estimates show 3,728,200 Massachusetts residents were employed and 115,400 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,843,600. The unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.0 percent. The February labor force increased by 3,100 from 3,840,500 in January, as 6,200 more residents were employed

and 3,100 fewer residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working-age population employed and unemployed, is up one-tenth of a percentage point at 68.0 percent. The labor force was up 81,700 from the 3,762,000 February 2018 estimate, with 100,700 more residents employed and 19,000 fewer residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

Local area unemployment statistics for February 2019 will be released on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. The preliminary March 2019 and revised February 2019 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Friday, April 19, 2019. See the [2019 Media Advisory annual schedule](http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf) (<http://Imi2.detma.org/Imi/Newsrelease/media2019.pdf>) for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/Imi (/Imi).

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Media Contact

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